



Improving Safety in Michigan for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Volume 1, Issue 1
January, 2008

Two More Regions of Michigan Begin Large Scale Non-motorized Planning Projects

Submitted by Cindy Krupp, MDOT Transportation Planner

The East Central Michigan Planning & Development Regional (ECMP&DR), and the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG), with guidance from MDOT are developing comprehensive, regional non-motorized transportation plans that will look at both on-road connections and off-road trails within their regions. The documents will showcase existing non-motorized facilities along with community priorities, opportunities, connectivity "gaps", potential funding sources and general design elements.

On November 1, 2007, a Bay Region Non-Motorized Trail Summit was held at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth. This "Summit" was the "kick-off" in the development of the Comprehensive Regional Non-Motorized Trails Plan for the 13 counties that comprise the MDOT Bay Region. These counties are: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola.

The Non-Motorized Trails Summit was well attended with nearly 140 attendees. Representatives from Act 51 road agencies, trail advocates, citizens, on-road bike advocates and elected officials from local units of government attended from

throughout the Bay Region. In addition, displays from private sector consultants and non-profit organizations showcased the work they do to design and promote non-motorized transportation.

A broad range of topics were presented at the Summit including: Goals and Objectives of the Non-Motorized Plan, On-Road Connections, Local planning initiatives, Overview of the Trail Development Process, Funding, and Maintenance.

The Bay Region Non-motorized Planning process will continue through a series of Charrettes. The first Charette is at the Mt. Pleasant MDOT Transportation Service Center (TSC) on February 5, 2008 from 6:30-8:30pm. It will target the MDOT TSC 5 county Region of Clare, Midland, Gratiot, Gladwin and Isabella. Additional Charettes will be held at Bay city (Arenac, Bay & Saginaw) and Caro (Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Genessee, Lapeer). Notices of the dates, locations and times for these Charrettes will be provided by the ECMP&DR along with MDOT when established. Please contact Anamika Laad with ECMP&DR at (989) 797-0800, anamikalaad@hotmail.com for more information or if you would like to be involved in the planning process.

On January 8 NEMCOG hosted a similar Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy Summit. This Summit included representatives from the following counties: Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, Montmorency, Otsego, Alcona, Oscoda, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon. Notices of the dates, sites and times for future Charrettes will be provided by NEMCOG when established. Please contact Pat Papendic at (989) 732-3551 ext.10, Email: ppapendic@nemcog.org for more information or if you would like to be involved in the planning process.

It is MDOT's goal to develop Non-motorized Plans for each of the seven MDOT Planning Regions. The Southwest Region completed their Non-motorized Plan in 2001 and the Non-motorized Plan for the northwest portion of the Lower Peninsula will be having their next summit meeting on February 27 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Northwestern Michigan College Great Lakes Campus, Hagerty Center on Front Street in Traverse City. Please contact Patty O'Donnell with Northwest Michigan Council of Gov. at 231-929-5039, Email pattyodonnell@nwm.cog.mi.us for more information. Stay tuned for updates on MDOT Regional non-motorized planning efforts in your area!

Calendar of Events

Upcoming meetings:

Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory
Commission Meeting
February 22, 2008

Pedestrian and Safety Action
Team Meeting
March 18, 2008

Upcoming events:

[Michigan Traffic Safety Summit](#)
March 11-13, 2008

[Eat Healthy + Play Hard = Smart Students](#)
April 22, 2008

[Designing Healthy Livable Communities
Conference](#)
May 29-30, 2008

For more information about the PBSAT, please contact our co-chairs:

Lisa Grost, Public Health Physical Activity Specialist, Michigan Department of Community Health (grostl@michigan.gov)
or Deirdre Thompson, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Engineer, Michigan Department of Transportation (thompsond@michigan.gov)

RESOURCE AND PUBLICATION NEWS

The most recent Transportation Research Record (TRR), a Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2002 includes 16 papers that explore a healthier way to travel, level of service of the urban walking environment and pedestrian route choice behavior, estimating nonmotorized travel demand, pedestrian counting methods at intersections, deficiencies in Florida pedestrian crash data, and methods to prioritize pedestrian high-crash locations.

This issue of the TRR also examines crosswalk confusion, modeling fault in fatal pedestrian crashes, visualizing driver and pedestrian interaction with safety viewgrams, green time effects on percentage of pedestrians waiting for midblock "Walk" signal, in-roadway "Yield to Pedestrians" signs, and normal walking speed and speed when crossing a street. In addition, this issue investigates pedestrian and driver behaviors at countdown pedestrian signals, passenger comfort and capacity bottlenecks in Dutch train stations, level-of-service evaluation of pedestrian facilities operations, and estimating crossing times at high-occupancy crosswalks.

The Publication can be ordered at:
http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.Asp?id=8488

CLICK HERE!

Federal Highway Administration
 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped>

Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission
www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3504_41646--,00.html

Michigan Crash Facts:
<http://michigan-crashfacts.org/>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
<http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Team
www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3504_41646-145625--,00.html

Transportation Review Board
<http://www.trb.org/>

Applications Being Accepted

The MDOT Local Agency programs are currently accepting project applications for the fiscal year 2009 Federal Local Agency Safety (STH) and High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) programs. Local Agency's can submit applications for both roadway and pedestrian related safety improvement projects. All applications must be postmarked by Friday, February 29, 2008. Details regarding the two federally funded programs can be found on the MDOT - Local Agency web site at http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9625_25885_40552--,00.html.

If you have any questions about either program, please contact Jim D'Lamater, P.E. at 517-335-2224.



Be safe, Be seen!

If you are walking, running or biking in low light conditions wear bright or reflective clothing.

National studies have shown that wearing reflective clothing increases your visibility by 70% over wearing white clothing alone.



Michigan was very honored to host the 1st Safe Routes to School National Conference in Dearborn on November 5-7, 2007. Over 400 people attended the conference from 47 states, including 150+ people from Michigan. Workshop topics included school siting, social marketing, youth involvement, empowering parents, bicycle safety, and working in diverse communities.

Michigan was also honored to accept the first James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award at the conference for recognition of their safety leadership. The state has a large diverse group of organizations and expertise working on Safe Routes to School. Michigan has a recommended process for schools to follow in formalizing their safe routes to school programs and it has an active coalition. For more information about Michigan's Safe Routes to School Program, please check out www.saferoutesmichigan.org or contact Bryan Armstrong at the MDOT (armstrongb@michigan.gov). Additional resources can be found at the National Center for Safe Routes to School at www.saferoutesinfo.org.